

2024 U.S. Presidential Candidate Tax Plans Quick Reference Guide



The upcoming U.S. presidential election will directly affect taxpayers and businesses across the country. As the election gets closer, expect each candidate to continue outlining key proposals that would impact tax policies ranging from personal income and estate planning to businesses and investments. To help with what may be on the horizon, we've compiled both candidate's recent statements on tax policy to help you better anticipate future impacts to your taxes and the wider U.S. economy.

U.S. Individual Income Taxes			
Type	Current Law	Harris	Trump
Individual Income Tax	Seven tax brackets: 10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35%, 37%. (TCJA subject to sunset Dec. 31, 2025) When enacted, the TCJA lowered tax rates, nearly doubled the standard deduction and eliminated personal exemptions.	Leave income tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in place for Americans earning up to \$400,000 per year. ¹	Make the expiring individual income tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent.
Social Security Benefits	Social Security benefits are taxable if your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, with up to 85% of benefits subject to tax for higher income levels.	Change the cost-of-living adjustment formula to better reflect the higher expenses retirees face. ²	Eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits.

Wealth and Estate Taxes			
Type	Current Law	Harris	Trump
Estate tax exemption	For 2024, an individual taxpayer may claim federal estate and lifetime gift tax exemptions of \$13.61 million. Married taxpayers filing jointly may claim up to \$27.22 million.	Supports reducing estate tax exemptions. Has not put forward a proposal.	Increased estate tax exemptions as part of the TCJA. Has not publicly said whether he would look to make this change permanent.

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Credits, Deductions, and Exemptions			
Type	Current Law	Harris	Trump
Child Tax Credit	The Child Tax Credit provides up to \$2,000 per eligible child, with phased reductions based on income levels starting at \$200,000 for single filers and \$400,000 for joint filers.	Expand the child tax credit to \$6,000 for children under age 1, \$3,600 for children 2-5 and \$3,000 for older children.	Consider expanding the child tax credit to a \$5,000 universal credit.
Earned Income Tax Credit	The Earned Income Tax Credit is a refundable credit for low- to moderate-income workers, with the amount based on adjusted gross income, investment income, filing status, and number of children. AGI phase-out starts at \$18,591 for single filers and \$25,511 for married filers with children.	Expand the earned income tax credit for filers who do not claim children.	No change.
Health Insurance Premium Tax Credits	The Health Insurance Premium Tax Credit reduces premium costs or provides a tax credit to qualifying individuals. For tax years 2021 through 2025, Congress temporarily updated income-based requirements, which are currently capped at 8.5% of total income for a "benchmark plan."	Extend or make permanent the expansion of health insurance premium tax credit (PTC) subsidies enacted under ARPA, which are set to expire at the end of 2025.	No change.
Housing Tax Credits	U.S. housing tax credits provide incentives for affordable housing development, historic preservation, energy-efficient homes, and first-time homebuyers. The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), for example, provides for 9% credits (for new construction without federal subsidies) and 4% credits (for projects with federal subsidies or rehabilitation).	Expand housing tax credits, including low-income housing tax credits, a credit for new homebuyers and a credit for the construction of starter homes.	No change.
Tip Income Exemption	Tip income is considered taxable income and must be reported to the IRS.	Exempt tip income from taxation.	Exempt tip income from taxation.

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Business Taxes and Tariffs			
Type	Current Law	Harris	Trump
Business Income Tax	The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act created a flat business income tax of 21%. Previously, business income was taxed with a bracket ranging up to 35%.	Claw back deductions for depreciation and interest for certain rental construction investment.	Lower the corporate income tax rate from 21 percent to 15 percent for companies that make their products in the U.S.
Tariffs	U.S. tariffs on imported goods range from 0% to 25% based on the product type, country of origin, and trade agreements.	No change.	Expand tariffs on foreign-made goods, including a universal baseline tariff on all U.S. imports of 10-20% and a 60 percent tariff on all U.S. imports from China.
Excise Tax on University Endowments	The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act imposed a 1.4% tax on investment income generated by private university endowments.	No change.	Tax large private university endowments.

Tax laws and policies have a direct impact on your income, investments and long-term planning, making it important to follow updates closely. By staying engaged, you'll be better prepared to make informed decisions that align with your financial goals.

Visit comerica.com/YEPG to download Comerica Wealth Management's 2024 Year-End Planning Guide for additional tax planning and end of year planning strategies, actionable insights, financial best practices and post election updates.

¹ <https://www.newsweek.com/election-donald-trump-kamala-harris-tax-policy-plans-1949478>

² <https://www.newsweek.com/how-kamala-harris-plan-social-security-compares-donald-trump-1949382>

³ <https://www.kiplinger.com/taxes/election-impact-on-tcja-tax-cuts>

⁴ <https://www.wsj.com/economy/trump-proposal-to-cut-tax-rate-for-u-s-manufacturers-spurs-flurry-of-questions-24ac5cee>

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